



Atty. Dkt. No.: 032026-0502

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nicholas L. ABBOTT, *et al.*  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
DETECTION OF MICROSCOPIC  
PATHOGENS  
Appl. No.: 09/784,232  
Filing Date: February 15, 2001  
Art Unit: 1639  
Examiner: My-Chau T. Tran

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to BOX AF, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below.  Bernard P. Friedrichsen (Printed Name)   (Signature)  February 21, 2003 (Date of Deposit)
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AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

BOX AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

This is in reply to the Final Office Action mailed October 21, 2002, in relation to the above-captioned application. The period for response was set to expire on January 21, 2003, and with the acceptance of the accompanying petition and fee the period for response will be extended to February 21, 2003. Accordingly, applicants believe that this response is timely filed. No additional fee is believed to be due for this filing. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required for this filing to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. For the purpose of charging said Deposit Account, duplicates of page 1 and the signature page of this response are submitted herewith.

AMENDMENT

Please cancel claims 17-63 without prejudice to applicants' ability to pursue such claims in a timely filed divisional application.